



**Michigan Forest Products Council**  
Business Advocacy for the Forest Products Industry

To: Senate Regulatory Reform Committee  
Re: House Bill 4561  
Date Sept. 27, 2012

**Committee members:**

The Michigan Forest Products Council (MFPC) strongly supports the Haveman compromise to HB 4561 and against exempting the residential energy code from the flexible code cycle. The residential code book contains all the code requirements (building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and energy) need to build a new home in one book and all of its requirements are designed to work together. The residential energy requirements shouldn't be treated differently than the other requirements in the code book. Those who want to see the residential energy code changed can offer the reasons that it should happen at the public meeting the bill requires the director to hold before making a decision on updating the code. They can also propose code amendments if the director decides not to update the code.

Michigan's forest products industry adds \$12 billion to the state's economy each year and contributes to the employment of more than 150,000 men and women. This industry is a pillar of Michigan's rural economy and is a key to diversification of the state's economic activity. Fair construction codes are vitally important to our industry in Michigan. Oriented strand board, lumber and plywood sheathing manufacturers have major investments in our state. We support energy code adoptions that provide design flexibility without compromising performance.

We are committed to reducing the environmental impact from buildings by encouraging energy efficient, environmentally responsible choices in design and building process. We do have concerns with the next edition of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the principle energy code used in the Michigan Uniform Energy Code. While the new IECC's do increase energy efficiency in new homes and commercial buildings, the approved measures are written to favor one product, foam wall sheathing. This is not acceptable as wood and other structural panels and systems are capable of providing equal thermal performance. These preferences threaten Michigan with lost manufacturing jobs and negative consequences to the rural communities dependent on the forest economy.

We support efforts to increase energy efficiencies and wood products will help Michigan achieve these efficiencies. Please do not exempt the residential energy code from the flexible code cycle and please vote "Yes" on the sensible reforms in the Haveman compromise.

MFPC works to promote, protect and sustain a vibrant forest products industry in Michigan. Michigan has 19.3 million acres of forest land supporting over 150,000 jobs and \$12.5 billion in annual economic activity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Robbins, Director SFI & Forest Policy, at 517-853-8880 or [srobbins@michiganforest.com](mailto:srobbins@michiganforest.com).